

to K. Drexel

Washington D. C. Dec. 8th 1887

On my return from Philadelphia I have carefully considered the subject of a central normal Indian school and prayed especially for light on the subject to-day, at Isaac Newton Church. I have talked with Father Willard and got his ideas.

I have also talked with Secretary Tamm the acting Com. of Ind. Affairs and several Gov. officers and Senators. They all advise me to go on. Some of them say that it is the only thing to be done. In conversation with Mr. Oberly who was formerly Superintendent of Indian Affairs is now a civil service Commissioner and who has the entire confidence of the President I learned that Mr. Cleveland is taking great interest in the problem of Indian education. He even wishes to extend the civil service rules to the examination of teachers in the Indian service Government schools and wishes to establish a normal school for teachers.

I knowing our need and the opinion of sensible men in a position to judge correctly, am firmly convinced that this is the best thing we can do. It must be done well and commenced at once if we want to succeed and monopolize it. This is very important. I wish to have it like the Carlisle. I would only take our best and oldest scholars out of our schools already in operation and train them to teachers, farmers & mechanics to be then employed by the Gov. on salary and also in our own schools. - I do not wish to trust this work to others, therefore I think it best to keep it in my own hands and send Father Willard to attend to it which he will gladly do, as he told me. He understands the business and promised to do as I direct.

Please write to me your opinion and decision and if you agree with my statement, tell me what name you wish the Institute shall have.

Enclosed I send you the shoe and clothing bills in order to enable you to write to them for goods which you want to purchase. Any other bill or bills you want since the beginning of my purchases for Indian schools up to date please let me know and I shall be happy to forward them to you. I will also let you know Cataldo S. J. about the land in the U.S. and a letter he has from some friends!

Remember me to your mother and sister and to all your friends and visitors.

Yours affectionately

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an office
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Wm. L. Drexel
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